

## HEPATITIS B AMONG NATIVE HAWAIIANS AND OTHERS

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, in concert with the National Task Force on Hepatitis B, have created a strategic plan to address the disproportionate impact of chronic Hepatitis B (HBV) in the minority communities of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and other Pacific islanders. It is estimated that 1.4 million persons in the U.S. live with chronic Hepatitis B, more than half of whom belong to these minority communities, as these populations have the highest rate of chronic HBV among all racial or ethnic groups in the U.S. Not too surprisingly, these minorities also share a disproportionately high risk for liver cancer. The HBV infection-related mortality rate among these minorities is 7 times greater than the rate among Whites. The strategic plan outlines health education, screenings, care, and research needed to reduce and eventually eliminate chronic HBV among Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and other Pacific islanders. Additional information is available via the URL below.

<<http://www.omhrc.gov/templates/brown.aspx?lvl=2&lvlid=90>>

Source: *Journal of the American Medical Association* 301(24):2545 (2009)

**IN KEEPING WITH THE U.S. MINT'S** release of state quarters, four new designs have been issued in 2009 to represent U.S. holdings in the Pacific — American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands...



## WHAT'S NEW ELSEWHERE

### TOURISM IMPACT PROGRAM

At the end of May a new program designed to reduce the negative impact of tourism on Easter Island was launched. Financed by the Japanese government in collaboration with Chile and UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization), the program will promote training and involvement of local communities on the island in sus-

tainable eco-tourism. Said UNESCO Director-General Koichiro Matsuura, the project will try to find a “balance between the needs for the preservation of the sites and the development of the island community”. Chilean President Michelle Bachelet praised the program, remarking that it should give the “local community a leading role in the enhancement and promotion” of its heritage.

Source: *UPI.com* (May 29, 2009)

### “SILENT WRITINGS”

Espace Louis Vuitton, in association with The Moai Project, hosted an exhibition between March and August of this year in Paris. The focal point of “Silent Writings” was the presentation of three original *rongorongo* tablets from Easter Island previously held (and apparently never previously released) by the Vatican Museum.

Together with the Easter Island artefacts, the exhibition brought together the works of contemporary artists to provide a series of different perspectives in areas identified by “impression”, “trace”, “symbol”, and “writing”.

For more information, check out the exhibition Web site: <[www.louisvuitton.com/espaceculturel](http://www.louisvuitton.com/espaceculturel)>

### SOUNDING THE PACIFIC: MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS OF OCEANIA

Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York  
November 17, 2009–September 6, 2010

Music is a universal human phenomenon. Musical instruments and musical expression, however, take an almost infinite variety of forms throughout the world. This is especially true in Oceania (the Pacific Islands) whose more than 1,800 different peoples create an astonishing diversity of musical instruments, from familiar types such as drums, flutes, and the Hawaiian ukulele, to unusual forms such as slit gongs carved in the form of ancestral catfish, bullroarers whose eerie whirring sounds are said to be the voices of supernatural beings, and delicate stringed instruments with sounding chambers fashioned from palm leaves. From the tropical rainforests of Island Southeast Asia, to the deserts of Australia, to remote coral atolls, musical instruments in Oceania play central roles in activities ranging from religious rituals and initiations, to feasts, celebrations, courting, and secular entertainment. This exhibition — the first in an art museum to be devoted exclusively to Oceanic musical instruments — explores the rich diversity of musical instruments created and used in the Pacific Islands. Drawn primarily from the Metropolitan’s collections, the exhibition features more than 60 instruments from small personal types such as panpipes and courting whistles to larger forms played at performances heard by the entire community, such as the exquisitely carved temple drums of the Austral Islands or the imposing sacred slit gongs of New Guinea.

### FRATERNAL ORDER OF THE MOAI

In our last issue, we noted that the Fraternal Order Moai (FOM) has made the EIF a beneficiary. The picture below shows a rather large check that was sent to us by FOM and we

are very grateful for their generosity. In case you missed the last issue, the mission of the Fraternal Order of Moai is to serve as the premier fraternal organization and social network for all men and women interested in tiki culture in the Polynesian pop era. Core values are: Good Works, Fellowship, Spirit, Presence, Preservation, and Celebration. You can read more about the group, which currently has six chapters, at <[www.fraternalorderofmoai.com](http://www.fraternalorderofmoai.com)>. The group held an event in September, Ohana Luau at the Lake, at the historic Tiki Motor Inn and Polynesian Village in Lake George, New York, which

was billed as “three days of music, cocktails, and ohana, in a classic Polynesian setting”. A silent auction and drink bowl auction were held and some of the proceeds will be donated to the EIF. For more information on the event, see <[www.luauatthelake.com](http://www.luauatthelake.com)>. We’ve heard from EIF / FOM member Caroline Roe that the event was a huge success, and we will have an article and pictures in the next issue of *RNJ*. We greatly appreciate the support of the Fraternal Order of Moai!

*Maururu!*



## WHAT'S NEW AT THE MAPSE

It seems as if there is always something interesting happening at the Museo Antropológico Padre Sebastián Englert on Rapa Nui! There have been a variety of workshops recently, including one held in August on archaeological heritage conservation for young people from ages 15-25. For the “Mes de los Niños” (Month of the Child) in August, there was a *kai-kai* (string figure) workshop taught by Isabel Pakarati and a greenhouse construction workshop taught by architect Lorena Larraín, where the children learned to make greenhouse models. Additionally, scientists from the GEMINI Observatory and the Universidad de Concepción gave lectures and programs to share their knowledge of the universe.

Also in August, María José Montoya Brauer of CONAF gave a presentation about the importance of the standardization of cartographic information on the island. In July, Judson Wynne (University of Northern Arizona) and Sergio Rapu, who led a team on a recent project studying caves on the island, gave a presentation entitled “Cultural and Natural Resource Inventory of Rapa Nui Caves: Implications for Conservation, Stewardship and Management”. In March, Oliver Hauswald (Catholic University of Eichstaett-Ingolstadt) gave a presentation on Ethno-tourism in Chile. During the past

3 years, Hauswald interviewed over 100 Aymara, Mapuche, and Rapanui persons and presented their vision of tourism from an indigenous perspective.



Teaching *kai-kai* string figures.

During June and July, archaeologist and EIF board member Charles Love gave a series of presentations on various subjects including remembering Tapati Rapa Nui, Ahu Tongariki before and after the tidal wave of 1960, the *moai* roads, the navigation of Miro O’one, and the sites and geology